

12/24/71

Dear Jerry,

Your letter of the 22, to which you referred by phone last night, came today. I have read it. I have no doubt about your sincerity or your intentions, certainly none about your integrity, and I find it unpersuasive.

I have no doubt that you believe it. And I likewise have no doubt that when you talk about "an axiom of advertising" it is as correct as it can be - with other things, like deodorants, worthless cereals, autos - but not on this subject.

From my own experience, and it has been as long as it has been painful, what you say is irrelevant.

It does me no good for "many people who have never read your books, have no first hand knowledge of the amazing things you've discovered", to find out about them outside my books and with the book from which they come unprinted.

It does no good, to me or to anyone, for there to be "mention of a provocative tid-bit like the displaced head wound" to "whet people's appetites for wanting to know more" UNLESS that more is then, immediately, available. And it does take the edge off.

(By the way, these are not "discoveries", or anything that casual. They are the end product of an enormous investment I have not yet come close to amortizing, an unimaginable amount of hard work. They are by no means anything as casual as a "discovery".)

Assume it to be what you say, "a devastating blow against Epstein", and I do not seek such things per se, for they are not, in themselves, constructive, tell me what good that does me, on a selfish basis, or us, collectively, in what we seek?

As a matter of curiosity, what do you mean by the work of Thompson, Kaiser and Sylvia, indeed, have done their own work, but be kind enough to show me one thing besides error that you can attribute to Tink.

Of course I want all the help I can get, and I appreciate both help and the intent to be helpful. Where we disagree is over your concept, that you would be helping me. I have no doubt this is your desire. What I doubt is the possibility it could be the end product.

¹ Mark, Marks Thompson, Flanné, Turner, Garrison, Popkin and others have made extensive use of my work, but that it has done me any good in any way I have absolutely no reason to believe. Were it to be credited to me, that also would do me no good. In the minority of instances where Thompson did credit, there has been no single letter to me from anyone who read his book and wrote to ask anything, including how to get mine, of me. Not one! The references you mentioned to the head wound by others were by those who in at least one case knew it was my work and mine alone. I do not recall your telling me that it was then credited. So, tell me where the good is for me. I can tell you where the harm is.

But this is no way to waste time. You do what you think is right, as I told you. I can't and I won't impose my judgement on you and your work. Ask yourself, however, if you are not doing this with me?

Glad you are coming next week. If you want to pursue this further then, we can.

Best,